S. NO.	Name of the PSU	No. of employees	Status
4.	National Bicycle Corpn. of India Ltd.	676	Final decision by BIFR for winding up. Under stay by Court.
5.	Cycle Corporation of India Ltd. (CCIL)	1718	Prima-facic conclusion by BIFR for winding up.
6.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn.	4217	Prima-facie conclusion for winding up. Under stay by Court.
7.	Tannery & Footwear Corpn. Ltd. (TAFCO)	1400	Final decision by BIFR for winding up.
8.	Rehabilitation Ind. Corpn. Ltd. (RIC)	1272	Discontinuance of operations recommended by Disinvestment Commission.

Besides, Govt. have also decided to extend the period of VRS for another 3 months to the remaining employees of Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. (BPMEL) for which a decision to VRS was taken by the Government eptember 1997. BIFR has given its final recommendation for winding up this Company.

(c) The Finance Minister had an nounced in the Budget Speech that in generality of cases and in enterprises not involving strategic consideration, the Government share-holding in public sec tor enterprises would be brought down to 26%. The Government has so far decided to go below 50% holding in 4 cases after considering the recommendations of Dis investment Commission. Government have also given 'in principle' approval to convert 23 PSUs of the Ministry of Indus try into Joint Venture companies.

(d) As on 30.9,1998, sixty four Central PSUs stand referred to BIFR.

(e) and (f) Sixty Central PSUs were referred to Disinvestment Commission. However, seven PSUs were subsequently withdrawn. Disinvestment Commission have recommended for classification of some of the industries as strategic. No final decision has been taken by the Govt. on these recommendations.

BIFR — Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction.

Supreme Court's Directive in regard to Recommendations of NCBC

*310. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had directed that the advice of National Commission for Backward Classes should be ordinarily binding on Government;

(b) whether, the said direction of the Supreme Court is not reflected in the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for taking more than one month to arrive at a decision on each advice of the Commission;

(e) whether a, large number of young people are becoming overaged for recruitment / competitive exams due to such delay in implementing NCBCs advice; and

(f) whether Government would compensate the youth so suffered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir, the Supreme Court in its judgment of C.W.P. 930 of 1990 of Indira Sawhney & Others

vs. Union of India and others intcr-alia directed that the advice of the Commission shall ordinarily be binding on the Government.

(b) No Sir, the position stated above is reflected in the NCBC Act 1993 in Subsection 2 of Section 9.

(c) Docs not arise.

(d) The Government has to take a view on the advices of the NCBC before notifying inclusions/exclusions of castes/ communities in the Central List of OBCs. Such a decision has its socioeconomic and political impact and hence the decision has to be taken at the highest level in consultation with the Ministries/Departments concerned with the subject matter. Time limit of one month can not be adhered to in this regard.

(c) and (f) At any given point of time, inevitably there would be some persons who would become ineligible for Government jobs due to over-age and other factors. Taking this into account the Government of India, amongst other things, has already given age relaxation of three years in case of OBC candidates.

Import of Sunflower and Soyabean under OGL

*311. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sunflower and soyabean are to be imported under Open General Licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its impact on indigenous industries; and

(d) the measures proposed to encourage increase in the indigenous production of sunflower and soyabean;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Government has placed Soyabean seed in split and cracked form and Sunflower seeds in the Free List of Imports with effect from 15th October, 1998. Import of Sunflower seeds is subject to Quarantine restrictions.

(c) Free imports are expected to help better utilisation of the indigenous installed capacity. Presently, only 35 to 40% capacity is being utilised due to shortage of oilseeds in the country.

(d) A centrally sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is under implementation in 23 States covering 374 selected Districts. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs, like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed mini-kits, sprinkler sets, improved farm, implements, gypsum/pyrites, micro-nutrients and rhizobium culture etc. In addition, Frontline and General Demonstrations are also organised on the farmers' felds to disseminate the production technology.

Development of SSI sector

*312. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar of "Strategies for speedier of SSI sectors"; was held in the Capital recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith suggestion made by the participants;

(c) whether it is a fact that around eighty five percent of the units in this sector are yet to have any form of access to bank finance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to narrow down the gap between the level of credit available and the credit requird by SSI sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKA.NDER BAKHT):

(a) and (b) A Seminar on "Strategies for Speedier Development of SSI Sector" was organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 27th October, 1998 at PHD House, New Delhi.